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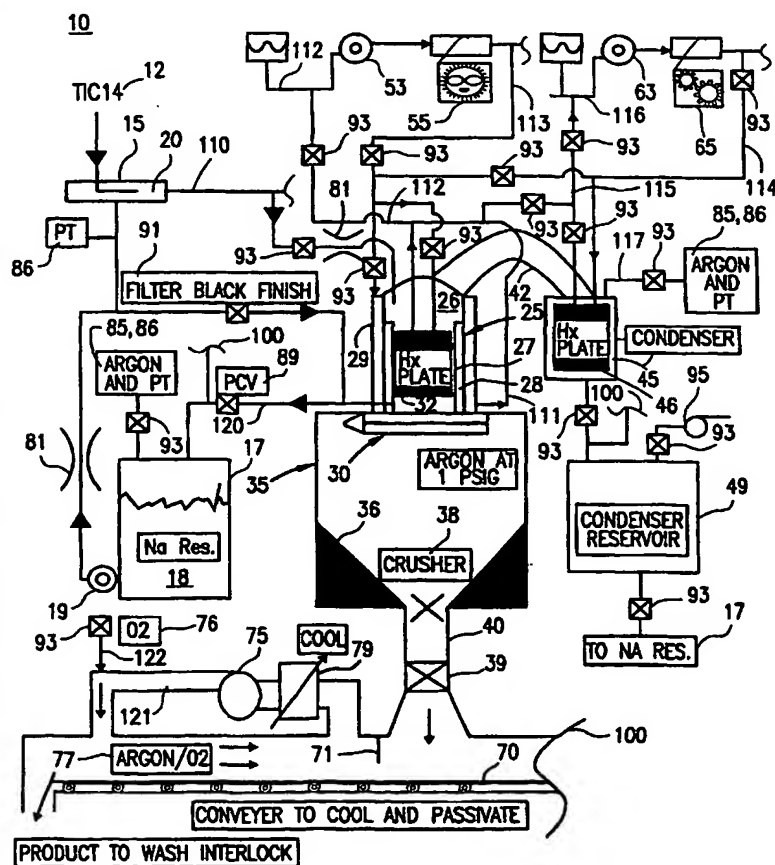
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(54) Title: SEPARATION SYSTEM OF METAL POWDER FROM SLURRY AND PROCESS



(57) Abstract: A system and method of separating metal powder from a slurry of liquid metal and metal powder and salt is disclosed in which the slurry is introduced into a first vessel operated in an inert environment when liquid metal is separated from the metal powder and salt leaving principally salt and metal powder substantially free of liquid metal. The salt and metal powder is transferred to a second vessel operated in an inert environment with both environments being protected from contamination. Then the salt and metal powder are treated to produce passivated powder substantially free of salt and liquid metal. The method is particularly applicable for use in the production of Ti and its alloys.

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 409 797 B2 (ANDERSON RICHARD PAUL ET AL) 25 June 2002 (2002-06-25) cited in the application	1,2, 4-10,14, 19,20
Y	column 4, lines 24-29 and lines 49-55; column 7, lines 32-45	11,12
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A	US 5 437 854 A (WALKER ROY G ET AL) 1 August 1995 (1995-08-01)	

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Information on patent family members

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